

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT SUMMARY

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| PROJECT TITLE | PROJECT TO PREVENT CHILD LABOR IN HOME-BASED CARPET PRODUCTION IN AFGHANISTAN |
| REGION/COUNTRY | ASIA/Afghanistan |
| PROJECT DURATION | September 30, 2013 – September 29, 2017 |
| FISCAL YEAR & FUNDING LEVEL | Total: USD 2,000,000 |
| PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED | <p>The weaving of carpets is often performed by women and children in the home and reports indicate that two out of three carpet weavers in Afghanistan are children. Amongst child workers in this sector, the majority are girls. Children often work in the carpet sector in contravention of Afghanistan's law. Children working in the carpet sector reportedly start at very young ages, sometimes as young as six or seven years old, and can work up to 12 hours per day. They suffer from a number of poor working conditions including exposure to dust from the wool and noxious fumes resulting in respiratory diseases. While there is no Afghanistan-specific research on the topic, research on carpet production from other countries indicates that children working to produce hand-woven carpets suffer from physical ailments due to the repetitive motions of weaving.</p> |
| TARGETS | <p>This project targets a total of 4,000 children and adults (direct and indirect beneficiaries) who are either engaged in or at risk of exploitative labor in the carpet sector. Specifically, the project will target 620 children (direct beneficiaries) engaged in or at-risk of involvement in exploitative labor through the provision of education and livelihood services. The project will work in Herat province, including Gozara, Enjeel and the 9th (Jabraeel and Kora-e-Milli) districts.</p> |
| PROJECT OBJECTIVES | <p>This project aims to reduce the worst forms of child labor in the home-based production of carpets in Afghanistan by designing and piloting a sustainable social compliance system in collaboration with at least one carpet company.</p> <p>Intermediate objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of a social compliance monitoring system;• Increased consumer demand for ethically-produced Afghan rugs;• Provision of remediation services to children and adults engaged in or at risk of exploitative labor in the carpet sector;• Increased knowledge share about the worst forms of |

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| | <p>child labor in the carpet sector through research studies;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awareness about the worst forms of child labor in the carpet sector increased in target communities; and the• Promotion of transparency and accountability amongst key community, government, and industry stakeholders. |
| SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing technical support to new and existing Afghan partner companies to build their internal capacity to adopt and implement GoodWeave’s certification standard;• Expanding GoodWeave’s independent third party verification system to monitor existing and new partner company(ies) compliance with GoodWeave standard;• Engaging key Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) and industry stakeholders to build broad support for and sustainability of project impact;• Providing education and livelihood services to target children and their families;• Creating direct market linkages to consumers and retailers for child labor-free Afghan carpets;• Conducting research on the nature of child labor in home-based carpet weaving and the carpet supply chain; and• Developing multi-media and traditional public awareness campaigns on the worst forms of child labor in the carpet sector for the community and other stakeholders. |
| GRANTEE | GoodWeave |
| IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS | Ariana Rugs, Inc. & Samuel Hall Consulting |
| CONTACT INFORMATION | Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor and Human Trafficking (OCFT) (202) 693-4843 |